



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula Fletcher**

City Councillor | Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth

September 6, 2023

Councillor Alejandra Bravo
Chair, Economic and Community Development Committee
Toronto City Hall

Incident and Operational Review of Serious Dog Attacks

Dear Chair and Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

After a life changing mauling of a resident in my ward by an off leash dog that was under a Dangerous Dog order, I am requesting an immediate review of this incident as well as a comprehensive review of serious dog attacks and the implementation and follow up of Dangerous Dog orders.

I am deeply concerned about a number of things that took place related to this mauling:

- The dogs involved were already under a dangerous dog order.
- The owner was not required to surrender the dogs in question to Animal Services which was terrifying for the surrounding neighbours.
- Animal Services did not take immediate steps to get a removal order from a Justice of the Peace
- These two dogs, which were under a Dangerous Dog order, were left in the care of the owner along with two other dogs that were also under Dangerous Dog orders.
- Toronto Public Health visited the apartment and saw there were 4 dogs - all of which had dangerous dog orders.

After the attack Toronto Police took immediate steps and laid a serious charge against the owner – Criminal Negligence Causing Bodily Harm. News release attached.

I am not aware of any public charges laid against this owner by the City of Toronto.

I am asking your support for the following recommendations:

1. Economic & Community Development Committee direct the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services, in conjunction with the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to review the incident on July 30th as well as the procedures and processes of Toronto Animal Services for the compliance and enforcement of Dangerous Dog orders, including in the immediate aftermath of a serious dog attack.

2. Economic & Community Development Committee direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to include the following in this review:
 - a. Existing procedure for managing a severe dog mauling incident
 - b. Public notification of a dangerous dog order
 - c. Requirements and conditions of a dangerous dog order
 - d. Expedited removal of animals involved in the most serious attacks
 - e. Proactive enforcement and monitoring of dangerous dogs to ensure compliance
 - f. Response to serious dog mauling vs. a dog bite
 - g. Current emergency access to a Justice of the Peace and any recommendations for Provincial changes to allow MLS/Animal Services to obtain emergency hearings after a severe dog attack
 - h. The protocol that has been set up between MLS/Animal Services and 311 for residents reporting dangerous dog matters
3. Economic & Community Development Committee request the Deputy City Manager, Community & Social Services, to undertake in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health a review the procedures and processes of Toronto Public Health in relation to investigations in the immediate aftermath of a serious dog attack.
4. Economic & Community Development Committee request the City Solicitor to report on options to make charges under Dangerous Dog legislation known to the public as well as public.
5. Report on all these recommendations in Q1 2024.

I ask for your support of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor
Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth

Attachment 1: Toronto Police News Release